

*The University of Southern Mississippi*

**Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase (7/15)**

The University of Southern Mississippi anticipates purchasing the item(s) listed below as a sole source purchase. Anyone objecting to this purchase shall follow the procedures outlined below in "Objections."

Commodity or commodities to be purchased (make, model, and description): Practical Assessment Exploration System (PAES) provides work and life skill training, vocational work assessment, work exploration, appropriate work behavior development, data collection & student reporting, and an accurate description of student performance and employment potential.

Explanation of the need to be fulfilled by this item(s) and why it is the only one that can meet the specific needs of the department: This item will help achieve Project Mississippi Partners for Employment (MSPE, GR05420) objective of implementing strategies and best practices that improve outcomes for youth and young adults with developmental disabilities/intellectual disabilities (DD/ID).

Name of company/individual selling the item and why that source is the only possible source that can provide the required item(s): Talent Assessment, Incorporated (TAI dba Curriculum & Transition Consultants). No other company is authorized to sell or distribute the PAES in Mississippi.

Estimated cost of item(s) and an explanation why the amount to be expended is considered reasonable: Estimated cost is \$25,812 for the Total Lab which includes the Basic Lab and the computer information module.

Explanation of the efforts taken by the department to determine this is the only source and the efforts used to obtain the best possible price: IDS/MSPE staff researched best practice training materials, consulted with Mississippi local school districts on what is used and toured the Petal School District offices that uses PAES. PAES is the most comprehensive transition kit that covers multiple work areas for hands-on jobs.